

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 03477 221151Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 L-03 H-01 DODE-00 ACDA-07 PRS-01 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1394
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY LAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 1065

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 3477

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, SW
SUBJ: PRE-32ND UNGA CONSULTATIONS: VISIT OF AMBASSADOR MCHENRY

1. PURSUING HIS PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS, AMBASSADOR MCHENRY
MET WITH SWEDISH MFA OFFICIALS AUGUST 17 FOR NEARLY FOUR
HOURS. PRESENT PART TIME WERE SECRETARY-GENERAL LEIF LEIFLAND
AND POLITICAL DIRECTOR KNUT THYBERG; PRESENT FULL TIME WERE
DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY FOR IO QUESTIONS ORJAN BERNER, LEGAL
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PAGE 02 STOCKH 03477 221151Z

ADVISED HANS DANIELIUS, AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS SECTION CHIEF BO
HEINEBACK. AT SWEDISH REQUEST, MCHENRY CONCENTRATED ON
NAMIBIA AND ON OTHER ASPECTS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE ALSO
SKETCHED OUT AN OVERALL VIEW OF THE UPCOMING UNGA, NOTING THE
IMPORTANCE WE EXPECT TO BE ATTACHED TO SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE
MIDDLE EAST, THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, AND UN RESTRUCTURING.
OUR SWEDISH CONTACTS HAVE TOLD US THEY FOUND AMBASSADOR MCHENRY'S

VISIT BERY USEFUL.

2. FOLLOWING DETAILED COVERAGE OF THE NAMIBIA SITUATION, MCHENRY BROUGHT UP WITH BERNER THE POSSIBILITY OF SWEDISH INTERVENTION WITH SWAPO TO URGE SWAPO TO ACCEPT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY A MORE REASONABLE TIME-TABLE FOR SOUTH AFRICAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL. MCHENRY NOTED THAT SWAPO'S CURRENT DEMAND WAS FOUR MONTHS, BUT HE THOUGHT A REALISTIC TIME-FRAME WOULD BE AS MUCH AS ONE YEAR. IF SWAPO SHOWED SOME MOVEMENT ON THIS POINT, MCHENRY SAID, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO GO BACK TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO PROVE THAT OUR CURRENT INITIATIVE WAS WORTH PURSUING. AS THINGS STOOD NOW, MCHENRY SAID, HE SAW NO ADVANTAGE AFTER HIS TALKS WITH SWAPO LAST WEEK OF APPROACHING THE SOUTH AFRICANS AGAIN, ALTHOUGH FURTHER TALKS WITH SWAPO MIGHT TAKE PLACE AT LAGOS.

3. BERNER'S REPLY WAS CAUTIOUS AND GENERALLY NEGATIVE. HE SEEMED TO PREFER TO STAY WITH SWEDEN'S PAST VIEW THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS WERE ILLEGALLY INSTALLED IN NAMIBIA AND THEREFORE SHOULD WITHDRAW FOR THAT REASON. BERNER APPEARED ALSO TO SUPPORT THE SWAPO POSITION THAT SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES COULD NOT BE TRUSTED, SO THAT EVEN WITH A UN PRESENCE, IT MIGHT BE UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT SWAPO PEOPLE TO RETURN TO NAMIBIA WHILE SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS WERE STILL THERE. BERNER OFFERED LITTLE HOPE THAT SWEDEN WOULD EXPECT TO DO ANY EFFECTIVE INTERVENING WITH SWAPO.

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PAGE 03 STOCKH 03477 221151Z

4. MCHENRY ALSO RAISED THE QUESTION OF SWEDISH ATTITUDES TOWARDS POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN A UN ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM UNDER A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN NAMIBIA AND TOWARDS POSSIBLE PROVIDING TROOPS FOR A POSSIBLE UN COMMAND IN MANIBIA. BERNER REPLIED THAT SWEDEN HAD BEEN PART OF EVERY UN PEACEKEEPING EFFORT. HE COULD GIVE NO FIRM ANSWER, HOWEVER, AND HE THOUGH A GREAT DEAL WOULD DEPEND ON HOW THE REQUEST WAS MADE, AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN NAMIBIA. (BERNER REFERRED TO THE CONGO SITUATION 1960-1 AND SWEDISH DISTASTE FOR HAVING THE CONTINGENTS ON THE FIRING LINE).

5. IN SEPERATE CONVERSATIONS WITH BERNER AND LEIFLAND FOLLOWING MCHENRY'S VISIT, CHARGE BROUGHT UP THE QUESTION OF SWEDISH ASSISTANCE IN A CONCRETE WAY IN NAMIBIA, IF SUCH ASSISTANCE WAS ASKED. BERNER WAS CAUTIOUS, BUT GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT SWEDEN WOULD PROBABLY FURNISH TROOPS OR DO WHATEVER WAS NECESSARY IN NAMIBIA IF THE EVOLUTION OF THE SITUATION WAS FAVOURABLE. LEIFLAND WAS LESS CAUTIOUS AND SAID DURING FOREIGN MINISTER SODER'S RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON, HE FELT THE GOS HAD MADE CLEAR IT WOULD RESPOND IF CALLED UPON FOR CONCRETE HELP IN NAMIBIA, AND GOS WOULD STAND BY THIS.

6. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR MCHENRY'S VISIT WAS EXCEEDINGLY WELL RECEIVED BY THE MFA. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR IF HIS CONVINCING PRESENTATION OF THE CURRENT US STRATEGY IN NAMIBIA WILL BRING THE SWEDES TO ACTIONS MORE HELPFUL TO US. BUT LITTLE IS LOST ON THE SWEDES, AND THEY CLEARLY RESPECTED THE SOPHISTICATION OF ARGUMENT AND THE DEPTH OF KNOWLEDGE MCHENRY PRESENTED. MCHENRY PREPARED THE WAY WELL FOR A FURTHER DIALOGUE WITH THE SWEDES IN LAGOS, AND WE HOPE THE US PARTICIPANTS WILL FOLLOW UP. SWEDISH HESITATION AT TRYING TO PERSUADE SWAPO TO A MORE REASONABLE ATTITUDE IS NOT A NEW THING, FOR THE SWEDES PREFER TO LISTEN TO THE AFRICANS RATHER THAN TO INFLUENCE THEIR ATTITUDES, ESPECIALLY IF THE MOVE IN QUESTION IS ONE PROPOSED BY THE US. MCHENRY PRESENTED THE CASE WELL, HOWEVER, AND WE BELIEVE REPEATED
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PAGE 04 STOCKH 03477 221151Z

FOLLOW-UPS, SEEING SWEDISH HELP, COULD FINALLY PRODUCE SOME RESULTS. WITH REGARD TO THE OTHER MAJOR AREAS OF POSSIBLE SWEDISH HELP MCHENRY RAISED, THEIR FURNISHING TROOPS, THIS SEEMS TO US VERY LIKELY TO WORK OUT. (A WORD OF CAUTION TO ADDRESSEES: THE POSSIBILITY OF SWEDISH TROOPS IS A SENSITIVE QUESTION HERE AND SHOULD NOT BE REFERRED TO UNNECESSARILY.)

7. THIS MESSAGE WAS NOT CLEARED WITH AMBASSADOR MCHENRY.
PERRY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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